



International
Federation of
Pharmaceutical
Manufacturers &
Associations

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Internationale de
l'Industrie du
Médicament

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Medicamento



Note to the Editor

Overview of Research-Based Pharmaceutical Industry Contributions to the Health-Related UN MDGs

MDG 4 - to reduce child mortality

While the research-based industry helps to achieve this goal in many different ways, the 2010 MDG Report highlights four diseases – pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria and AIDS – which in 2008 accounted for 43% of all deaths of children under five. To help address the first two, IFPMA members have developed new vaccines adapted to pneumococcal and rotavirus strains prevalent in developing countries, and are providing a combination of tiered pricing and donations to facilitate access to them. For malaria, member companies have created different artemisinin combination therapies, the WHO-recommended first line therapy, in formats specifically adapted for use by children, and produced them in large quantities at very low prices. Likewise, 14 of the 24 antiretroviral compounds developed to keep HIV/AIDS in check are available in forms suitable for children and six of them can be given to infants of three months. Member companies also support various programs to strengthen pediatric AIDS care in developing countries.

MDG 5 - to improve maternal health

The 2010 MDG Report notes that while expectant mothers have an increased vulnerability to a number of diseases, notably malaria, the biggest factor for improving maternal health is access to quality reproductive health services. In addition to programs to help address a wide range of diseases which affect pregnant women, IFPMA member companies currently support 18 programs which are focused on improving maternal health in developing countries. While some of these programs include donations of standard medicines and medical supplies, a feature common to all is a strong investment in providing up-to-date training for local midwives and other health workers.

MDG 6 - to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

The 2010 MDG Report comments that the spread of HIV appears to have stabilized. Amongst other factors, it attributes this to the wider availability of antiretrovirals. While all of these key medicines were developed by research-based pharmaceutical companies, manufacturing them for developing country-use is a task that is now shared with the generic pharmaceutical industry, as is the case for medicines for other major infectious diseases, such as malaria and tuberculosis. IFPMA member companies also support a range of programs designed to address these diseases in developing countries in a number of complementary ways, including training for doctors and nurses, provision of physical infrastructure and prevention-oriented education for populations especially at risk. The number of these member-backed access and capacity building programs has increased steadily over the last few years and now totals more than 50 in HIV/AIDS, plus 10 for tuberculosis and seven for malaria. All of these diseases have demonstrated a strong ability to develop resistance to different treatments, so it is essential for research-based companies to continue developing new alternative therapies which can take over when resistance develops to the current ones. To that end, the research-based industry is working on 97 new medicines and vaccines for HIV/AIDS, 34 for malaria and 25 for tuberculosis. In addition, member companies are mounting a growing research effort to find new therapies for other tropical diseases, such as Chagas disease, Dengue fever and sleeping sickness. Much of this research effort is conducted in association with public and private sector partners around the world, including ones in emerging and developing countries.

More on R&D Pharmaceutical Industry MDG contributions

Details of 213 research-based pharmaceutical industry-supported programs currently underway to improve health in developing countries can be found in the IFPMA Developing World Health Partnerships Directory, available via the IFPMA website at www.ifpma.org/healthpartnerships. These programs include 74 which feature donation of medicines, 31 which offer tiered pricing, and five which involve technology transfer via voluntary licensing. They all contribute to MDG 8e, “In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential medicines in developing countries”, a challenge that the research-based pharmaceutical industry shares with its generic counterpart.

New medicines and vaccines under development for HIV/AIDS are documented by the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Research Association of America (PhRMA), the IFPMA’s member association in the USA, and can be found on its website at:

http://www.phrma.org/medicines_in_development_for_hiv%10aids

New medicines and vaccines under development for tuberculosis, malaria and the main tropical diseases are documented by the IFPMA and can be found on the IFPMA website at:

http://www.ifpma.org/fileadmin/pdfs/webnews/2009_07_07_Status_RnD_for_DDW_07Jul09.pdf.

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About the IFPMA:

The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations is the global non-profit NGO representing the research-based pharmaceutical industry, including the biotech and vaccine sectors. Its members comprise 25 leading international companies and 46 national and regional industry associations covering developed and developing countries. The industry’s R&D pipeline contains hundreds of new medicines and vaccines being developed to address global disease threats, including cancer, heart disease, HIV/AIDS and malaria. The IFPMA Clinical Trials Portal (www.ifpma.org/ClinicalTrials), the IFPMA’s Ethical Promotion online resource (www.ifpma.org/EthicalPromotion/) and its Developing World Health Partnerships Directory (www.ifpma.org/HealthPartnerships) help make the industry’s activities more transparent. The IFPMA supports a wide range of WHO technical activities, notably those relating to medicine efficacy, quality and safety, and coordinates industry participation in the WHO IMPACT initiative to combat counterfeit medicines. It also provides the secretariat for the International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH).

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